

News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Monday, November 23, 2009

Free Cancer Resources Available To All Wyoming Citizens

Men and women across Wyoming have access to cancer education, prevention, screening, navigation and survivorship resources due to the expansion of the Wyoming Department of Health's Wyoming Cancer Resource Services project (WCRS).

WCRS began by providing services in three Wyoming counties in 2007. The project now serves all Wyoming citizens through a regional model. There are five state regions with headquarters located in Albany, Laramie, Uinta, Park and Johnson counties.

"This expansion allows Wyoming Cancer Resource Services to provide a wide array of cancer education, resources and materials to anyone in Wyoming" says Jessica Perez, outreach specialist with the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

"A diagnosis of cancer can be overwhelming to hear for patients and their families. There are so many things to learn about and options to consider," Perez said. "Anyone in that situation could benefit from an expert helping hand."

Services provided by WCRS for Wyoming residents include cancer education and awareness, promotion of early detection of cancer, recruiting eligible participants into state-funded cancer screening programs and patient navigation.

Cancer prevention and control is the top priority for WCRS. The program also focuses on helping those who are most in need, including uninsured and under-insured individuals and those living below the federal poverty level. "Due to their personal economic situations, many people who contact us need to know more about potential options for financial assistance with healthcare," Perez said.

"When my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer I found the Wyoming Cancer Resource Services to be a great help. They answered any questions we had. The support provided by this project is a tremendous benefit for Wyoming," says State Representative Ken Esquibel (D-Laramie County).

For more information about WCRS, please contact the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 307-777-7362 or visit <http://www.health.wyo.gov/phsd/ccc/ccrc.html> online.

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